

**STATEMENT OF JUAN DIXON, PLAYER, WASHINGTON WIZARDS,
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM, MAY 19, 2005.**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Juan Dixon, and for the last three seasons I have been a player with the NBA's Washington Wizards. Before entering the NBA, I attended and played for four years at the University of Maryland.

Through my three years in the NBA and four years of collegiate competition, I have never seen or had knowledge of any use of steroids by my peers. Though I do not assume to have a detailed medical knowledge of the impact steroids have on the human body, my general understanding is that in addition to the well-known health risks inherent to their use, the potential gains do not directly translate into success in the game of basketball.

What I will adamantly state though is that I have innate understanding of what is fair. I also know how hard I have worked to get to this level. As a result of both, I have a vested interest in helping to communicate the necessity and appreciation for a level playing field. The steroid conversation is not just about health risks. It is about ensuring that the public understands that I, along with my peers in the NBA have achieved success through hard work and dedication to our dreams, not through the use of steroids or other performance enhancing drugs.

As a professional athlete I have an obligation to be the type of role model that not only influences kids directly about healthy choices and the dangers of steroid use, but one that visibly contributes to a culture where hard work is emphasized and cheating is never rewarded.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.